A Description of Time:

Applied to this present Time.

With *Times* merry Orders to be observed.

Men doe blame Time, while they their Time do spend
Time no purpose, or to bad end.

LONDON:
Printed by *I. O.* for *Francis Grove*, and are to be sold at his Shop on Snow Hill, neare the *Sarazens* head. 1638.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE DESCRIPTION of *Time*: Applyed to this present *Time*.

WHereas *Time* hath seene much vanity, which is all laid upon *Times* old Shoulders, and whereas *Times* eares have beene tyr'd with Tales of Cocks and buls, lying, swearing, and complementing, scoffes, and jeeres, while one cryes, O *Times!* O *Manners!* another saies, What *Times* are these? another sings no other song but, Here's an *Age* would make a man mad: *Time* therefore to cleere himselfe, and to shew that the World is deceived in

laying the blame of all matters upon *Times* backe, hath here set downe his abuses, and certaine merry orders to be observed, that so the World may not grudge at the present *Time*, nor *Time* bee offended with the vice and vanity of the World, but both live merrily, according to these orders following.

O Mor-

O Mortalls! why doe you complaine of *Time*?
Read here my griefe and wrongs in every line.
You oftentimes doe wish that I would stay,
When you are at the Ale-house, or at play:
But never thinke that *Time* with his sharpe Sithe,
Mowes downe by houres and daies your mortal life.
And when you commit any wickednesse,
And thereby bring your selves to great distresse,
Then with poore *Time* you presently are mad,
And thinke *me* evill because you are bad.
What should *Time* doe, if he should strive to please
All those who are sicke of a mad disease?
And are so discontented with old *Time*,
Who quietly doth runne through every Signe.
For if that he would get the Land-lords praise,
Then he must turne himselfe to Quarter-dayes:
Or if the Tennants curses he would shunne,
Then he must make the Quarter slowly come:
If he would please the Virgin, he must bring
A Suiter to her in her youthfull Spring:
If he would please the Old man, he must stay
His Houre-glasse, and his houre of Death delay:
Or if he would the Citizens love earne,
Then he must adde to the yeare a fifth Terme.
One sayes that *Time* is now growne very hard,
And that his gates against the poore are barr'd:

Another sayes, it is a wanton *Time*,
When men are onely guilty of that crime.
For *Time* is much asham'd by Day and Night,
To see such sights as doe him much affright,
And make his old gray Fore-lock stand on end,
To see how some doe prodigally spend
Their precious houres in drinking and in swearing,
Making a shew, and to the world appearing
Brave Gallants, who are onely outward shapes
Of Gentlemen, or rather but their Apes.
For they esteeme that Vertue cannot be
The formall cause of true Gentility,
Or that poore undiscerned *Vertue* can
Give onely being to a Gentleman.
But let them passe; they that doe thus abuse (use.
Poore *Time*, shall want *Time*, which they scorne to
And in a word, most men their *Time* doe spend
Unto no purpose, or to a bad end.

Times Orders to be observed.

FIrſt, let no Woman preſume to paint her face, that hath beautie enough of her owne; for though ſhe have colour for her cheeke, yet ſhe ſhall have none for her owne eye, then Times cheeke will looke freſh and lively. 1.

Let Taylers never coſen Gentlemen in their Suites by the Cuſtome of London, for take up more than will ſerve, conſpiring with the Mercer to gull the Gentry: Let them never make any looſe bodied gownes for Women, ſo that they can never hold their owne. Let them never ſowe any garments in ſuch haſty manner, that ỹ ſeames are preſently all unript; let them never put in bad linings into any Suite, and keepe the other for themſelves. And laſtly, let them never with long Bills aſſault and ſet upon Gentlemen; theſe Orders being obſerved, 2.

ſerued, the hands of Time will not be guilty of ſo much thæuing and ſtealing.

3. Let Hoſts & Hoſteſſes, & all Victuallers giue no? aſkeꝛ any maze dꝛinks, either Wine, o? Beere, o? Ale, than will moderately ſuffice their gueſts: let them not like bꝛiars and bulles, hang about their armes, and make them ſtay when they would be gone, o? are indeede gone already. Let them remember to fill their Pots, and ſuffer no Dꝛunkard to ſpend that in one houre o? Day, which ſhould maintaine him, and (perhaps) his Wife and Children all the Weeke. These Oꝛders being obſerued, Hoſts and Hoſteſſes ſhall liue honeſtly. Trauellers ſhall liue thꝛiftily, and Time ſhall be counted no Dꝛunkard.

4. Also it is oꝛdered by Time, that hee that ſpends money before hee hath it, ſhall bee counted a foꝛward fellow, and a cunning man; but becauſe women are like this peere to haue tender eyes, therefoꝛe they ſhall haue mourning Gownes made with great ſleeues, that they may mourne foꝛ their Husbands deceaſe in their Gownes, and laugh in their ſleeues.

5. Moꝛeouer, it is oꝛdained, that if any men haue a res Roſe betweene this and July, they ſhall foꝛfeit all the ſhoes in their ſhops:

shops; but if his wife be a scold, then the case is alter'd, for he may goe to the Alehouse by the privilege of bad Husbands. Also if any one drinke more than will doe him good, it is ordayned by Time, that next morning his head shall be cut off, and set up for the Signs of the Foxe and Goose. for by this meanes the Drunkards in these Times will be fewer.

Besides, it is decreed and ordained, that if Husbands and their Wives fall out about cutting of a legge of Mutton, before they have eate the Porridge, that then the Crop Ware is the better Dole: but yet to the terrour of all scolding tongues, all scolds shall be forced to eate hot Porridge, till they coole the fury of their tongues; and when they will not be rul'd by reason, some wives shall be duckt upon a Feather-bed, and made quiet thereby, and so the eares of Time shall not be disquieted with the noise of scolding in the Streets. 6.

Furthermore, it is ordained, that Oyster-wives, and the other Criers of commodities, shall get an Art to cry softly; that men shall never talke any thing of their Neighbour, but that which is good; and that scraping of Trenchers, and the babling of fooles shall be silenc'd: Also Dep- 7.

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tons shall invent a new way to ring Bells without making any noise: Smiths Anvyles shall be lin'd with Cushions, Rogers shall grow hoarse for want of money, Scolds (as I said) shall grow tongue-tyed, Carts and Coach-wheeles shall bee lin'd with Bombast, & other shall be taken with Water-mes, that they shall not make such a bawling; Prentices in a Terme-time shall not dare to cry, What lacke you? but shall fall asleepe upon their Shop-bookes, and generally, all noises shall be put downe, and silenc'd, whereby the eares of Time are offended: as most especially, all drunken quarrelling and prating in Ale-houses, and singing of Catches when they be more than halfe asleepe: Also Coopers shall hoope their Tubs and Vessels in Cellers, and not in the Streets, and all other violent sounds and noises, as barking of Currs, winding up of Jacks, squeaking of Cats, the humming noises of Muskets, withall the Thunders in the lower Regement of the belly, and the baying of the Bears, are all forbidden as troublesome and offensive to Times eares.

8. Also, because Times eyes are grown old and tender, therefore it shall be ordained, that none shall have more money than wit, for that is offensive to Time; neither shall

shall any weare new braue cloaths that are not paid for, nor presume to iuggle the wall when he is drunke, nor to reele afterward into the kennell. Also for a Woman to breake her Husbands Coxcombe with a Ladle, shall be a sight very displeasing to Time: also the strange Fashions which are every day inuented, shall bee quite forgotten, and young men shall not striue to haue Beards before their Time, nor shall Dogges presume to run away with shoulders of Mutton out of Rich mens houses: Foles shal not ride upon Iuise mens backs, nor make Asses of them; Serving-men shall not weare Cloakes for their knauery, young Wenches shall not looke grene at Fifteene for want of Husbands: all Tobacco-pipes shall bee broken, and Ioane Slattergood shall hang new Stockins, for Time is much displeased to see her hose broken aboue the shooe: also all courting of Maids in the darke, with whispering them in the eare, and other slight temptations shall bee quite abolished: Bread shall bee made of a iust size and quantity, although the Baker bee not taught to see to make it weight, by looking through a wooden window. And to conclude, Smiles shall flye in the Night. Measures shall bee made

right

right and lusk, Red Noses shal grow pale, bald crownes be cover'd with Perriwigs, Wenches shall never walke in their dreames stark naked fooles shal not teare for want of Wit, Beggers shall not rise while wise men goe on foote: Chandelers shal not cut small penny-worths of Cheese, Coblers shal not dare to play the Cookes, and licke their thumbs; Meate shal not be roasted without a fire, and Chambers shal never bee kept cleane without sweeping and washing, for these sights are displeasing to Time.

9. Moreover, because Time is out of Taste, and distastes many things, therefore he hath ordayn'd, that poore men and prisoners shal never make great sumptuous Feasts: and also, men shal not pay more for their sawce than for their meate, which hath bin an old customs time out of minde. Besides, it is ordain'd, that Mustard and Partichoaks, or clowted Creame and Vineger shal never be served up together: also a Table without meat shal be counted no Dinner, & it shal be lawful to rise frō thence without giving thankes; also for any man to choake himselfe with drinking good sack, shal bee very distastefull to the Wisht of Time: and besides, Time alowes none to eate

eate good cheere, but such as have money to buy it. No Tarts shal be made of Iéres and scoffes, nor such as have Rheumaticke Noses, shal make no Puddings: nor shal any fat wench make Butter in Summer: besides, Carpes, and Pouts, and Railes, with Crabs for an after course, shal not be served up at any married mans Table, nei shal an old shoe-soale, though it be mine'd, and buttered, and dreſt after the French fashion, ever make any good meate: And also Time hath thought good, that buttered Ling without Egges, shal not bee so good meate as with Eggs; nor a Calves head without Bacon, as good as with Bacon; also there shal be very little savour in ẏ white of an eggs, nor in any thing else without Salt, for that wil savour all things except ill words, or the folly of a Foole. Besides, no man shal presume to taste very hot broth for feare he burne his mouth, nor to eate a dozen of new Cakes without drinke, for feare he choake himselfe. And in generall, all working dayes and fasting dayes, summety that is burnt to, comforbes of roast Meate, all sawcinesse in Dayes, all Winger virtuous admonitions, and Worme-wood words, and more especially shal-lowing downe knavery, without troubling

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the stomacke of Conscience, is distastefull to Times taste.

10. And moreover, Foot-men shall be compell'd to change their Socks twice a day, or else not to come in their Lords presence. Wolues, Fish-Wiues shall not cry new Fish, when it is ready to stinke, for that is abhominable in the nose of Time. And moreover, it shall be accounted better to haue a sweete breath, than to weare sweete powders and muske about them. Also the smell of Spice shall be very dangerous, especially about the Counter, and the smell of a great Feast shall neuer fill a mans belly.

It is ordayned also, that the smell of Sir Ajax breath against rainy weather, and the sent of More-ditch in Summer, shall be very distastefull to Times Nose; all hastie words also shall make Time take Pepper in the nose, and therefore hot stomacks that eate great store of Sage to coole their fire. Also knauery, hidden vnder the wes of honesty, if discerned, shall smell ranke and be very distastefull to Times nose; and also complements being perfum'd & sweeten'd with dissimulation, shall be soone disliked. Moreouer, Water that is pure and cleere, shall be thought to haue no smell; but good

Sacke

Sacke shall make Times nose looke Sunburnt. Also the smell of Honey shall bee counted very savoury, according to the old Proverb, Bonus lucri odor ex re qualibet: The smell of gaine is sweete, though from a Jakes. Lastly, the smell of ỹ snuffe of a Candle, the burning of Woollen in the fire, a Chamber-pot full of stale Urine, the cunning of Hostesses, the knavery of Hostlers, and generally, all false dealing and corruption shall be very distasteful to Times nose.

Also, because Time is old, and starke bald behinde, therefore it shall be no offence for such as have bad wits, to bring forth bald conceits: and because Time is old, (as I said) in his last declining Age, therefore it shall be lawfull for old men to dye in good age, and while they live, to bee honour'd before young Gallants, by the privilege of Time and Seniority. 11.

Moreover, because Times wit and judgment cannot chuse but be very crazie, after so many yeares griefe and trouble, therefore it is ordain'd, that it shall runne a woollgathering, to make a Night-cap for him; and that hee shall never bee made any Officer or Watchman. And besides, Time hath ordain'd, that hee that can keepe his 12.

fingers

fingers out of the fire, shall be counted a wise Man, and shee that can read egges wel, a cunning woman; but if any Asse presume to put on a Gowne, hee shall bee apprehended for a counterfeit Philosopher.

It is ordained also, that Fooles shall aggree very well together; and hee that can tell an hundred pound of his owne Money, shall bee counted a skilfuller Man than he that can cast up great summes in figures. And to conclude, to see Geese cackle, and talke Greeke, to heare Asses make Orations in strange Languages, to heare Cuckowes sing severall Tunes, to see Young men have more money than manners, to see Footes worne for Night-Cappes, and Hats for Shooes, and to tell a Tale to a Mare, shall bee all displeasing to Times wit. Also, to heare a Morrice Dance commended for an excellent Maske, or Crabs for very good Pippins, or that the Powder of a Post, is better than Suger to sweeten Wine: These are all distastefull to Times Judgement.

Therefore it is ordained, that money shall be preferred before vertue, by the principall

cipall Judgements, and that a Calves head and Bacon shal be effeemed a better Dish of meate, than a Leg without Oyle and Mustard; a foule stable shall bee iudged better for a tyred horse than a faire way: but betweene Knavery, Dishonesty, and Baseneſſe, there shall bee little difference in Times Judgement.

And moreover, because Time is generally hated and every one desires his Roome rather than his Company: Therefore it is ordained, that Young fellowes that spend their time wastefully, shall bee very Asses in their Age; and that Powdred Beefe shall bee sometimes not mollified, or softned by ten of Clocke, because they let time passe away unregarded. Also old Maides shall despaire of Husbands, and all because they let Time passe away unregarded; and so shall such as frequent Alehouses be adiudged to goe in old cloathes, because they did not make use of, nor respect Time. 13

And because Time hath beene much abused by Drinking, therefore it is ordained, that some shall be carried to the Counter before they have Time to pay their Debts, or compound with their Debtors; and besides, hee that takes up commodities upon Times backe, shall be found to pay for them over Times Shoulders.

Also it is ordained, that men shall waite upon Time and Tide, and Puddings and Pyes shall be dough back'd, if they bee not set in the Oven in Time.

And likewise Time doth ordaine, that he which sleepeth till tenne of Clocke, that hee will bee so offended with him, that hee shall never rise early in a Morning: And whereas Time did use to make young Wenches ripe and ready for Husbands at fifteen yeares of age, now they shall stay till twenty five, if they have not Petitions: Moreover, those that shall

Peale

Peace in Summer, and can doe no thing else, may fairly play three quarters of the Yeare; and such as dresse themselves onely against Dinner-time, shal bee counted no early rising Huswives; and Weare shal grow ripe with Time, but Ale shal be transformed into Wineger.

Moreover, it is the pleasure of Time, that all Bils and Bonds bearing no Date, shal bee payd in the yeare One Thousand five Hundred and never. And because young men should bee warie and thrifty, (as it becommeth them so to bee) therefore such as waste their Time, in following vaine and vile pleasures, are ordayned to Beggers, by a Statute that was made in the yeare One thousand foure hundred and seven.

And also to prevent all inconveniences arising by the neglect of Time, it is ordayned, that Prodigals shal have more wit than money, and that the stealing of a nappe upon an Ale-

bench, shal bee counted a Fellony against Time; and that Feather-beds shal bee made hard, being stuft with Cotten of Care, that men may turne twenty times before they can sleepe, or take any rest: And also Tobacco, a great worker of Time, shal bee made to smoake wheresoever hee is found: Ringing also of Bells shal not be held so necessary as ringing of Cleaths, and such like.

And lastly, Time ordaines, that Drinking untill Midnight, sleeping untill Noone, dressing untill Dinner-time, Starching on Sundayes, working on Holydayes, tedious trimmings at the Barbers, following costly Suites in Law, also for young Maydes to lye a Bed and spoyle their beauty or complexion, and long at Dinner, and sleeping by the Fire-side in the Winter time, also all extreame laughing and quaffing, with many other kindes of ill living, shall bee distastefull to Time.

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To give you Counsell thus, *Time* thinkes it best,
And teach you truth, although it bee in jest:
For hee that will not counsell take from *Time*,
That hee will ne're bee wise it is a Signe.

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